

90 EMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
REFOKMEK

and Laveleye, Jules Simon, Ernest Hamel, and Proudhon,
— briefly of men whose principles were opposed to those of the Second Empire.¹ Occasionally M. Lacroix was led into hot water by his democratic tendencies; as, for instance, when he incurred fine and imprisonment for issuing Proudhon's annotated edition of the Gospels, whereupon he became so alarmed that for some time he would not continue the publication of Hamel's whitewashing of Bobespierre, of which he had already issued the first volume. In fiction he was often venturesome; for he not only produced "Manette Salomon" and "Madame Gervaisais" for the G-oncourts, but he issued "Le Maudit" and other notorious volumes by the Abbe* * * *, — really the Abbe* Michon, — an author whom Zola did not hesitate to slate " in a provincial newspaper, though Lacroix was his own publisher. " Disgust," he wrote, " rises to the lips when one reads these novels² floundering through filth, as vulgar in form as they are in thought, and pandering to the gross appetites of the multitude. One must assume that all this vileness and vulgarity is intentional on the author's part: he has written for a certain public and has served it the spicy and evil-smelling *ragodts* which he knows will please

it.",

On the other hand, calling now and again at
the Librairie

¹ The present writer can speak of these matters from
personal knowledge ;
he well knew M. Bourdilliat, the founder of the Librairie
Uouvelle, and
afterwards connected for many years with " Le Monde
Illustre", " which.
Frank Vizetelly helped to establish, and of which he was
the first editor.
As for the Librairie Internationale, it became the
commercial agency of the
" Illustrated London News," which Heiiry Vizetelly (the
writer's father) repre-
sented in Paris for several years.

² "Le Maudit" was followed by "La Keligieuse," "Le
Je"suite," "Le
Moine," etc., all of these books having very large sales in
Paris.